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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/686,346	10/10/2000	Melanie H. Cobb	10624-026-999	4740

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

MONSHIPOURI, MARYAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1652	

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/686,346	Applicant(s) Cobb et al.
Examiner Maryam Monshipouri	Art Unit 1652



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ | 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15 and 22, drawn to TAO kinases and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the TAO kinases, classified in class 424, subclass 94.5.
- II. Claims 16-21,23 drawn to an isolated polynucleotides encoding TAO polypeptides and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the polynucleotides, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- III. Claim 24 drawn to a method of phosphorylating MEK polypeptides comprising contacting a MEK polypeptide with TAO kinases, classified in class 435, subclass 15.
- IV. Claim 27 , drawn to a method of screening for an agent that modulates signal transduction via MAP kinase pathway comprising contacting a candidate agent with TAO polypeptides and subsequently measuring the ability of TAO kinases to modulate the activity of MEK3 polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 15.
- V. Claims 25-26, drawn to a method of activating a member of stress responsive MAP kinase pathway in an organism comprising administering to an organism a

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TAO kinase thereby activating the MEK polypeptide, classified in class 424, subclass 94.5.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I , II are patentably distinct each from the other because each product has a different chemical structure and function. These inventions require entirely different search strategies as evidenced by their separate classification.

Inventions I, and III (or IV or V) are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polypeptides of invention I may be used for inactive kinase preparation which is entirely different method than any of the method inventions III-V.

Invenions II, and III (or IV or V) are patentably distinct each from the other because the polynucleotides of Group II are not being utilized at any step of the method inventions II-IV and VI-VIII. Further, the polynucleotide of invention II may be used for expression of TAO kinases which is an entirely different method than any of the method inventions III-V.

Inventions III, IV, and V are patentably distinct each from the other. This is because each method has different steps and different end points. Further, each method relates to TAO

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polypeptides differently. These inventions have acquired a separate status in the art and require different search strategies each from the other.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter as shown by their separate classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Maryam Monshipouri, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-1083.

The Examiner can normally be reached daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Dr. P. Achutamurthy, can be reached at (703) 308-3804. The OFFICIAL fax number for Technology Center 1600 is (703) 308-4242.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Maryam Monshipouri
Maryam Monshipouri, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner